admitted that as a barrister no client had ever risked entrusting him with a brief; that as an architect the only commission he ever received to design a house came from a relative, and that his qualifications as a surveyor had never been determined by an examination. Under his guidance these representatives of rural enlightenment and progress, to the majority of whom cross sections and front elevations were as void of meaning as the nebular hypothesis, wrestled with the plans of the learned judge. They called to their aid the official surveyor of the council, who by a unique process of evolution had attained that office by serving the community at various times as a farmer, policeman and inspector of nuisances.

DENSE RURAL COUNCIL.

Even with his assistance they could make nothing of them. Mr. Scarlett likened them to the work of "an elementary school-boy." They solemnly pronounced them unintelligible, and declared that they did not conform to the by-laws of the council, whose rigid enforcement, the welfare of the community imperatively demanded. There followed a correspondence which gradually grew acrimonious. The judge intimated that although legally compelled to submit his plans to them he could not supply them with the exceedingly limited intelligence necessary for their comprehension. After things had dragged along for some time, and an offer made by the judge to submit the matter to arbitration had been neglected, he decided that he would proceed with the erection of the cottages. On his estate were several similar ones already occupied which had proved thoroughly sanitary and in every respect satisfactory. He set a force of masons and bricklayers to work, who seemed to find no difficulty in working by his drawings.

IN SOLEMN CONCLAVE.

The rural council held several meetings to consider the matter. If the cottages were completed they would afford standing proof of their own incapacity. Besides, it behooved them to maintain their dignity and authority. They decided to prosecute the judge. In bringing about this decision it was shown that one of the retired clergymen, the Rev. F. B. Slacter, who had abandoned the cure of souls for the mundane care of his large estate, played a conspicuous part. A summons was served on Sir William Grantham, his name appearing on the same charge sheet in company with that of an alleged poacher and a "drunk and disorderly." "Until I was brought to a standstill in my own building operations," he wrote, "I could not believe that such an amount of iniquity, incompetence and narrow-minded pride in office could have existed in this country."

COUNSEL SCORED COMMITTEE.

The case lasted three days before a rural bench of magistrates of that class whose travesties of justice Mr. Labouchere has for many years exposed to the extent of a column or more in every weekly issue of "Truth." It appeared that in acting as his own architect, and thereby depriving some other man of a job, Sir William had acted contrary to the council's notions of propriety and fitness. But he did not make the mistake of appearing as his own lawyer. He was represented by Mr. Gill, one of the ablest of London's barristers. The spectators, most of whom sympathized with the judge, hugely enjoyed the scathing scorn and biting sarcasm which he heaped on the petty rural solons who had placed obstacles in the way of a man who was seeking to use his means to benefit the poor and solve one of the most important social problems of the day. His sallies were greeted with frequent bursts of laughter, but the mirth ceased when, rising to a higher flight of oratory, he directed attention to the undeserved stigma cast upon a man whose life had been one of eminent public service and whose private means had been largely devoted to the same ends, by subjecting him to the ignominy of a police court prosecution. In the midst of a strange silence and tension in the court for a few seconds following one of these dramatic outbursts, the venerable, white-haired judge buried his face in his hands and his sobs were clearly audible. Several eminent architects testified that the judge's plans were clear and intelligent and contained all the information necessary. "A builder that could not carry them out," declared one of them, "would thereby confess himself hopelessly ignorant and incompetent."

The magistrates reserved their decision. It may be rendered before these lines appear in print. If adverse to Sir William Grantham the matter will not end there. He will fight it out until the highest courts have been reached. He is not the only philanthropist whose building schemes have been checked by the pettifogging stupidity of rural councils. Wilfred Blunt and several others have been compelled to suspend their benevolent purposes by similar opposition. One result of the agitation will doubtless be a revision of rural building laws which in many places at present render the construction of cheap cottages, such as workingmen alone can afford to rent, impossible. In many country districts the construction of wooden houses that are everywhere found in America, are actually forbidden.

WORK OF DUCHESS FOR CHURCH ARMY.

(Continued from page thirteen.)

antly afford to lend a helping hand in the work we are doing should see for themselves how we do it and how great is the need of it. Seeing such pitiable distress as now exists and seeing, too, how it can be relieved, exercises a vastly more stimulating influence over the charitably inclined than merely reading about it. It makes money burn holes in the pockets of those that withhold it."

ONE THOUSAND WORKERS.

The Church Army has done vastly more than any other organization to relieve the Church of England of the reproach that it pandera to the rich and neglects Lazarus for Dives. It has a staff of over a thousand workers. It sustains over 120 homes and institutions throughout the United Kingdom by means of which thousands of wretched and unfortunate human beings have received a fresh start in life. It is the Rev. Wilson Carlisle's own creation and his energizing spirit pervades every department of its manifold activities. Scant encouragement he received from its dignified and decorous prelates of the established church when he first started it. Street processions, banners, brass bands, tent meetings, magic lantern displays in churches and such things easily suggested that epithet which pious respectability so much dreads, "sensationalism." But success has long since silenced alike criticism and opposition. No one now questions the vast amount of good that the Church Army has done and is doing. Once Mr. Carlisle was attacked by a gang of roughs who sought to break up his meetings and left bleeding and senseless in the street. Now there is no slum in London where he would not find scores of friends to protect him from violence, should the need of such assistance arise. And the archbishops and bishops of the church have been converted to his side, too, and are now numbered among the Church Army's "distinguished patrons."

E. LISLE SNELL.

ENGLISH CAPITAL SHY OF IRISH INVESTMENTS

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Rather a significant comment on the attitude of English capital toward Irish industries is made in a letter just received from an American manufacturer now in the Emerald Isle. This is W. M. Callender of New York, proprietor of the Celbridge Paper Mills, in County Kildare, at which paper is being made from bog mould or "peat" by the Callender process.

"If we had more capital," writes Mr. Callender, "we could vastly increase our output. It is, however, practically impossible to find capital in England for an Irish industry, and the only financial support to be found even in Ireland is from the rank and file of the people themselves, under the stimulating influence of the Gaelic movement for the industrial rehabilitation of the country.

"There is a strange belief prevailing among the wealthy classes and leading merchants of Ireland," the American manufacturer goes on, "that no new industry ever can flourish there, so that for such purposes as ours it is almost impossible to find capital. The providing of capital through the Gaelic movement seems to me, therefore, to mark an epoch of far reaching importance in the new development of industrial Ireland."

As a matter of fact, practically all the really large enterprises which have started up in Ireland recently have done so with the aid of American capital.

TO MAKE A BIG SPLURGE AS AN ENGLISH SQUIRE.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—At Rushton hall, the recently acquired country seat of James Van Alen, the American millionaire who finds English social conditions much more to his liking than those of his native land, there has just arrived an army of workingmen who are going to pull the old place to pieces. It will then be reconstructed and enlarged on a scale of lavishness and splendor commensurate with the owner's purse and the prominence he expects to attain as an English country squire. Never before has such activity been witnessed in the quaint little Northamptonshire town of Kettering, which is about three miles distant from the hall. Lodgings are at a premium and what the tradespeople have lost from lack of employment during a hard winter, they hope to make up through the liberal expenditure of the new master of Rushton.

Mr. Van Alen has just made a most important appointment, and one, too, that will be much welcomed in the neighborhood. James Cruickshank had been head gardener at the hall for many years, but when the place was sold recently he had to look for other employment, and as it was understood that an entirely new staff was to do duty at Rushton hall, Mr. Cruickshank had no hope of being re-engaged there. He had earned a high reputation as a gardener in the services of King Edward, the Duke of Connaught, and the Rothschilds, and without difficulty procured another position at Windsor castle. This Mr. Van Alen induced him to relinquish by the offer of a princely salary—and he has now returned to Rushton hall. It is understood that his salary is higher than that of any other head gardener in England. He has already received his instructions. The old hothouses are to be demolished and new terraces and walks after sixteenth century style are to be constructed, plans for which have been supplied by Mr. Van Alen himself.

Miss Van Alen with a party of friends has been over the old house and grounds exploring every nook and corner. The whole scheme of decoration will be left entirely to her tastes. It is believed that she was mainly instrumental in securing the services of the gardener, being much impressed by what she saw of his work when she went over the grounds in the neighborhood of the hall.

AN UNEXPECTED OUTCOME.

The Earl of Dartmouth, during a recent visit to Dartmouth college, said, apropos of duelling:

"Why it is I know not, but in Europe no duelist is so feared as the American duelist. No duel is considered so deadly, so hopelessly deadly, as the American duel.

"The Parisians and the Germans speak with shudders over their liqueur of American duels wherein combatants are locked into a room, their left hands tied together and huge pistols put in their right hands. They think that in the western states duels of this nature are fought daily.

"Well, I am going to tell you about a Parisian and the use that he made of the American duel. Being challenged, afire a certain quarrel, it was his right to decide on the manner of the combat, and he said:

"'This shall be an American duel. The other principal and I will draw lots, and he to whom the lot falls will retire to a secluded place and, within earshot of the seconds, shoot himself.'

"This horrible arrangement was agreed to, and on a still morning the combatants and their seconds met in the forest of Fontainebleau. Lots were drawn with a good deal of pallor and nervous trembling, and luck went against the man who had proposed the American duel.

"He took his revolver, bade farewell to his seconds, shook his opponent by the hand and retired behind a clump of stunted oak trees. There was a moment of suspense, of silence, then the report of a revolver, and the waiting men ran round the clump of oaks with horror-stricken faces.

"There the duelist stood, erect, unhurt. His pistol still smoked in his hand. He smiled regretfully.

"'Good gracious, gentlemen, is it not unfortunate?' he said. 'I have missed myself.'"

JEALOUS OF PROVIDENCE.

Before Frederick B. Smith, the secretary of the international committee of the Young Men's Christian association, set out on his evangelistic tour of the world, he was entertained at dinner by a number of his admirers.

At the end of the dinner Mr. Smith made an address, choosing for his subject "Modesty." Among other things he said:

"Some men are vain and conceited beyond belief. I know a man who went walking with his wife once on the bank of a stream. He was a careless, awkward, loose-jointed man, and suddenly, his foot slipping, he fell overboard.

"Though the water was deep and cold, the man got out after a few minutes' struggling and grunting, and his wife, as she hurried him homeward, said:

"'George, you ought to be thankful to Providence that your life was saved.'

"'Yes, yes,' George answered. 'Providence, of course, was very kind, but I was very clever, too.'"

JOINS REGULAR ARMY.

FRANKLIN PIERCE

Franklin Pierce, who is the grandson of the late president of the United States, has decided to enter the regular army as a volunteer. Pierce has spent his life up to the present in New York City.

HOW LONG CAN JAPAN HOLD OUT?

Inner History of the Struggle, as Recorded by a British War Correspondent—The Simple Life as a Source of Both Strength and Weakness.

AT THE beginning of the war many European traders in the far east declared confidently that Japan would repudiate her national bonds within six months, says F. A. McKenzie, war correspondent of the London Daily Mail. Others, who professed to have inside information, were equally sure that the government had accumulated sufficient secret reserves to meet the cost of the war for at least 18 months, without outside assistance.

Both were entirely wrong. Japan has so far shown a surprising ability to bear the monetary burden of the war, yet this burden is proving itself very heavy. The task undertaken by the country was well summed up by Count Okuma, the famous Japanese statesman: "Russia's population," said he, "is two and a half times more than ours, and her revenue and army eight times larger. At the beginning of the war, the Imperial Bank of Russia possessed a specie reserve of 860,000,000 roubles (£80,000,000), against a note issue of 600,000,000 roubles, while the Bank of Japan possessed 100,000,000 yen (£5,000,000) of specie reserve, against over 200,000,000 yen of notes."

In the spring the position of Japan was this: It required, roughly, a million and a quarter a week to carry on the war. It had a very small national debt, and singularly honest public servants; but the home wealth was comparatively small owing to the simple lives and low standard of living prevailing throughout the country.

In most parts of Japan a workingman can live in comfort on a few shillings a month. I have had the salaries of many judges stated to me as £40 a year, and high officials serve the nation for wages which a New York bricklayer would laugh at in scorn. The lives of the people are unelaborate. Homes are plain and inexpensive; the simple articles of diet in universal use are amazingly cheap; dress generally is simple and, although the Japanese woman has some very costly articles of attire, those articles are so carefully kept as to last for generations. Ostentation, extravagance and expensive living are thought bad form.

All this is admirable from the point of view of building up national character. A simple people is a strong people; but simple lives mean low earnings, and a low earning nation goes into the market as a borrower under a handicap. Some optimists, I am aware, attempt to argue that while living simply the Japanese have individually considerable savings. There is one ready test for this, however. Where savings and spare capital are abundant, the rate of interest earned is low. In Japan, according to official returns, the annual average rate for fixed loans is 10.5 per cent.

The low standard of living in Japan aided the empire in one way, however. It is probably true that Japan can run a great war cheaper than any other nation on earth. The Japanese business man has too often the reputation of being a trickster; but the Japanese public servant in his dealings with the nation is honest beyond reproach. It is impossible for one to conceive a Japanese contractor selling the army rotten stores or adulterated provisions. Japan can feed her army and navy cheaply, and the salary lists of the fighting services are little more than nominal.

War came, and with war came a call for economy. On all sides statesmen and public men appealed to the nation to save to the limit of personal expenditure, and to prepare for hard times. The people obeyed the advice with the greatest faithfulness. Children starved themselves until they fainted from hunger in school. All purchases of luxuries, silks, furniture and the like ceased in a day.

The people saved, but their saving had the inevitable economic effect. No one bought new silks, consequently the thousands of silk weavers, save those employed on foreign orders, were thrown out of employment. The furniture trade was contracted, and one lumber district, that the year before had sold millions' worth of stuff, now found itself workless. Thousands of workers all over the land found their occupation gone.

Half a million men—the number is greater now—were withdrawn from active employment. At the same time trades which were the mainstay of whole districts ceased. Thirty thousand Japanese fishermen usually set out in March from the western coast to drag the Korean waters. Last March the capitalists withdrew their usual offer of loans, and the fishermen, when I last heard of them, were staying at home idle. The great steam mercantile marine which Japan has built up so rapidly was withdrawn from commerce to serve for war transport, and the cmargo business ceased or went to foreign ships.

The government cut down, and is cutting down, every expense at home. Nothing is wasted on the field. Military supplies are good and the machines of death are the best the nation can secure. But the accessories of the armies are made in the cheapest possible way. The khaki with which the troops were clothed in summer was of such poor quality that it washed almost white by the end of August, making the soldiers clear marks for the enemy.

The nation faced the situation clear-eyed. While the self-denial moves were not wholly wise, other much more sensible moves were made. Men brought out their family treasures of art and quietly offered them abroad, to raise money for the war loans. The heavy taxation for war expenses is being cheerfully borne. The government has taken over the tobacco trade, making it a state monopoly, and in the ordinary course of events is bound to make great profits out of it. The salt monopoly is also being cheerfully borne.

The surprising thing in Japan just now is the small evidence of real distress to be seen. The splendid rice and silk crops this autumn have helped many, and are regarded by the common people as a direct interposition of heaven on their behalf. The expenditure of part of the loan money in the country in the purchase of supplies has also helped. Much of the clothing and food of the soldiers can be made and raised in Japan, and wherever possible these are being purchased there. Women, old men and boys are doing the work formerly done by the men now fighting or dead in Manchuria. The absence of the former breadwinner at least makes one less mouth to feed.

Japan is not yet at the end of its financial resources. The law is likely to be altered in the immediate future to allow foreigners to own real estate within the empire. This will enable the government to raise a loan upon its railways or to sell them outright. The new tobacco monopoly, already mentioned, affords another tangible asset. And the people are willing to hypothecate their last national asset and to sell their last domestic heirlooms before they abandon the fight.

Those who desire the actual figures of Japanese finance today can easily obtain them. Above are the facts that lie behind the figures.